After Lunch—(2-30 p.m.)

RESOLUTION REGARDING REMOVAL OF NEILL STATUE

* Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the resolution standing in my name, viz.—

'*this Council recommends to the Government that the Neill Statue in Mount Road, Madras, should be removed and kept away from public view.*'

" Sir, I feel it a privilege and a proud privilege to have had the opportunity of moving such an important and unique resolution as this, perhaps the first of its kind to be moved in any legislative body of this land.

" This Mr. Neill came as an ordinary soldier to Madras and perhaps by dint of his military prowess, rose to the position of Colonel about which attainments we are not now concerned with. If he had proved a good soldier, he might have had a good recognition from the then authorities, and I learn, a handsome pension was also accorded to his widow. But what we are directly concerned with now is whether he deserved then or deserves now the merit of having a statue in our midst. It might have been raised more out of fear than of love and regard. Even about this we are not now concerned with. The point now is that Colonel Neill's achievements are in the nature of heart-rending atrocities. Even after such a flood of light since thrown, culled from authoritative and authentic sources, from letters of his own contemporaries and history, all of which lay hidden all these days, about his atrocities and outrages, whether a statue still deserves to continue to be in our midst is the question before us. A wholesale burning of villages, women and children not being excepted, hanging hundreds and thousands of persons like so many dogs to every branch of every available tree and strangling others most mercilessly, do all such acts of utmost brutality and inhuman nature deserve to be perpetuated in this very land where such acts were perpetrated with impunity? This is nothing but adding insult to injury and carrying such insults to the very doors of the peoples of this land. It is my intention to try all constitutional means and to see that this statue no more continues to be in our midst and that it is removed and installed, if indispensable, in his birth place and in his own native land. It should not be taken to mean that we are averse to the statue of a European being in our midst, for there are other statues to which we have not the least objection, nay, whose memory we honour (Mr. S. Satyamurti : 'Hear, hear'), for instance, the statues of Munro, Bodham, Ripon and Dr. Miller and so forth.

" I do not propose to deal, in detail, with the several brutal atrocities and outrages committed on so many innocent and helpless people of this land, as they have already found publication in ever so many journals of Madras. It is after all our *own* land, however much the Britisher may have made it his own now for administrative purposes. I think we have every liberty and right to demand that such and such a thing shall be here or shall not be. Ours is an indisputable right and I think we will be perfectly within our legitimate bounds to pronounce our view in the strongest terms possible. I only wish that the Government will understand us correctly and take it in the spirit we offer it and that they will honour the sentiment surging forth over the length and breadth of this province. For, in a similar position, they would themselves like